

No doubt *Colinus* frequently assumes just the attitude there exhibited.

At different times I have expressed myself in this journal upon the question of the value of photographs of living birds to the ornithologist, to the taxidermist, and to the artist,—so it will obviate the necessity of my repeating those remarks here.

The kind of photographs to which I had reference are very well exemplified in the Plates illustrating the present contribution,—but how rarely do we yet find them! Most of the attempts I have seen published are of little or no use whatever to the scientist in any department, and even the results themselves are far from pleasing. During my recent studies a vast number of these have been submitted to me for my inspection, and, if possible, use. There has not been one result in fifty of any practical value, and I have been obliged to lay them aside. What we are after is to get *absolutely true* pictures of the forms of birds, and such pictures as can be *used*. More examples than I have been enabled to give in this article will shortly appear in my work on ‘Scientific Taxidermy’ in the next ‘Report of the Smithsonian Institution,’ now in press.



*TYMPANUCHUS AMERICANUS ATTWATERI*  
BENDIRE. ATTWATER'S OR SOUTHERN  
PRAIRIE HEN.

BY CHARLES E. BENDIRE.

SINCE my preliminary description of this bird in ‘Forest and Stream’ (Vol. XL, No. 20, May 18, 1893, p. 425) I have examined considerable additional material and am now compelled to consider it as only a well marked race of *T. americanus*. Its subspecific characters are as follows:—

Smaller than *T. americanus*, darker in color, more tawny above, usually with more pronounced chestnut on the neck; smaller and more tawny

MEASUREMENTS OF *Tympanuchus americanus attwateri*.

U. S. National Museum Number.	Collector.	Sex and Age.	Locality.	Date.	Wing.	Tail.	Culmen.	Length of bill fr. nostril.	Tarsus.	Middle Toe.	Depth of bill fr. nostril.	Neck Tufts.
4250	G. Würdemann	♂ adult	Calcasieu Pass, La.	1854	8.20	3.50	.70	.50	2.20	1.80	.35	2.25
126347	Southwick and Critchley	♂	Orange Co., Texas	1885	8.30	3.50	.65	.50	2.20	1.85		2.65
128480	H. P. Attwater (Type)	♂	Refugio Co., "	Mar. 27, '93	8.30	3.30	.71	.50	2.00	1.80	.40	2.50
128482	"	"	"	" 27, '93	8.50	3.15	.67	.50	1.90	1.58		2.90
132508	"	♂	Jefferson "	Jan. 30, '94	8.40	3.67	.65	.52	2.00	1.70	.40	2.50
4249	G. Würdemann	♂	Calcasieu Pass, La.	1854	7.60	3.25	.70	.41	1.90	1.65		
128481	H. P. Attwater	♀	Aranas Co., Texas	Apr. 25, '93	8.15		.80	.50	1.98	1.67		
131177	"	♀	"	Nov. 7, '93	8.00	3.25	.72	.50	2.00	1.72		
131178	"	♀	"	" 7, '93	8.00		.72	.52	1.90	1.62		
132509	"	♀	Jefferson "	Jan. 30, '94	7.65	3.15	.71	.45	1.95	1.75	.37	2.56
Average		♀			8.34	3.42	.68	.50	2.02	1.75	.38	
"		♀			7.88	3.22	.73	.48	1.95	1.68	.37	

light colored spots on wing-coverts, and much more scantily feathered tarsus, the latter never feathered down to base of toes, even in front; a broad posterior strip of bare skin being always exposed, even in winter, while in summer much the greater part of the tarsus is naked.

*Downy Young.*— Head, neck and back, tawny rufous; top of head, back and rump, marked with a greater or less number of brownish black spots; sides and lower parts rich golden buff. The young chicks even show the great difference in the feathering of the tarsi, only the front half being covered, while in *T. americanus* of the same age only a narrow strip of the posterior side is unfeathered. In the latter the feathering in front comes almost if not quite to the base of the toes, while in the former, there is a naked space of more than .10 of an inch.

The subjoined measurements have been kindly taken for me by Mr. R. Ridgway of the Smithsonian Institution.

*Habitat.*— Coast districts of southwestern Louisiana and southern Texas.

While engaged in working out the geographical ranges of *T. americanus* and *T. pallidicinctus* I received information from Army friends and others stating that Prairie Hens were found along the Gulf coast of Texas, and in order to determine positively which species occurred there, I wrote to a number of parties asking them to procure specimens for me. All the material received was kindly procured by Mr. H. P. Attwater of Rockport, Aransas Co., Texas, and generously donated by him to the U. S. National Museum Collection, and as a slight recognition for his trouble in obtaining these specimens, which proved to be a well marked race, I have named this new subspecies in his honor. The U. S. National Museum already contained three skins which are clearly referable to this subspecies, but the material was not sufficient and in too poor condition to base a new race on.

Attwater's Prairie Hen is considerably smaller than its northern relative, full grown birds averaging only from 25 to 31 ounces. They frequent the low prairie lands near the coast and do not appear to be very common anywhere. They begin nesting about the middle of March, and young chicks, probably three or four days old, were obtained by Mr. Attwater, on April 25, 1893, near the line between Aransas and Refugio Counties, Texas. The crops of three of the specimens sent by Mr. Attwater contained remains of insects and the tops and seeds of different species of leguminous plants.